104TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION

H. R. 293

To amend the Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969 to establish a presumption of eligibility for disability benefits in the case of certain coal miners who filed claims under part C of such Act between July 1, 1973, and April 1, 1980.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 4, 1995

Mr. Kanjorski introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities

A BILL

- To amend the Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969 to establish a presumption of eligibility for disability benefits in the case of certain coal miners who filed claims under part C of such Act between July 1, 1973, and April 1, 1980.
 - 1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
 - 2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

1	SECTION 1. PRESUMPTION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR DISABIL-
2	ITY BENEFITS UNDER THE BLACK LUNG BEN-
3	EFITS PROGRAM.
4	Section 422 of the Federal Coal Mine Health and
5	Safety Act of 1969 (30 U.S.C. 932) is amended by adding
6	after subsection (l) the following new subsection:
7	"(m)(1) Notwithstanding any other law, rule, or reg-
8	ulation, in the case of any claim filed under this part be-
9	tween July 1, 1973, and April 1, 1980, with respect to
10	a miner who has engaged in coal mining employment for
11	at least 10 years, such miner shall be presumed to be to-
12	tally disabled due to pneumoconiosis, or to have been to-
13	tally disabled due to pneumoconiosis, or the death of such
14	miner shall be presumed to be due to pneumoconiosis,
15	arising out of that employment, if any of the following
16	medical requirements is met:
17	"(A) A single positive chest roentgenogram (X-
18	ray), biopsy, or autopsy indicates the existence of
19	pneumoconiosis.
20	"(B) A single set of positive ventiliatory studies
21	indicates the presence of a chronic respiratory or
22	pulmonary disease.
23	"(C) A single set of positive blood gas studies
24	indicates the presence of an impairment in the
25	transfer of oxygen from the lungs to the blood.

- "(D) Other medical evidence, including the documented opinion of a physician exercising reasonable medical judgment, indicates the presence of totally disabling respiratory impairment.
- 5 "(2) The presentation of evidence which meets any
- 6 of the requirements under subparagraphs (A) through (D)
- 7 of paragraph (1) shall be sufficient to invoke the presump-
- 8 tion under such paragraph.
- 9 "(3) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to
- 10 require proof of any such medical requirement by a pre-
- 11 ponderance of the evidence or by any higher evidentiary
- 12 standard.".

 \bigcirc